

## CHILE STARS - 13 DAYS

The thought of Chile conjures up visions of mystery and antiquity. A ribbon of land between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes, Chile is a country of geographic variety and spectacular beauty. Bounded in the north by the highest and driest desert on Earth, in the east by the mighty Andes mountain chain and in the south by the snow and glacier fields of Patagonia, the End of the World, together with charming coastal towns, the fertile vineyards of the central valley and the lake district, Chile has it all.

### Overview of this tour

#### Transfers

Airport – Hotel – Airport

#### Excursions

- Half Day City Tour Excursion in Santiago de Chile
- Half Day Moon and Death Valleys in San Pedro de Atacama
- Half Day El Frutillar Excursion in Puerto Varas
- Excursions included and offered by the hotel in Torres del Paine



#### **Day 1: Arrival - Santiago de Chile**

Upon arrival at Santiago de Chile airport, you will be met by our representative and escorted to your hotel. Overnight in Santiago de Chile.

#### **Day 2: Santiago de Chile - Half Day City Tour**

##### *Breakfast*

Today we invite you to experience Santiago, a mixture between the old and the modern. Our tour through the city will show the immensity and varied geography this metropolis has to offer. We will visit Plaza de Armas, Santiago's Main Square, where the Cathedral, the post office and the City Hall are located. You will learn about the origins of the local civilization and the city growth along the years. Our next stop is the civic neighborhood and the surroundings of La Moneda Government Palace. Drive through some of the old neighbourhoods of Santiago, like Republica and Concha y Toro. Later on, we will visit the eastern part of the city to admire the modern buildings which have shaped a new and modern Santiago. Overnight in Santiago de Chile.

### **Day 3: Santiago de Chile**

#### *Breakfast*

Day at leisure to explore the city further on your own.

Overnight in Santiago de Chile.

### **Day 4: Santiago de Chile - Atacama**

#### *Breakfast*

At the relevant time you will be transferred from the hotel to the airport.

**Flight to Calama airport (not included).**

On arrival, you will be met by one of our representatives, who will take you to the hotel and assist you with check-in procedures.

Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama.

### **Day 5: San Pedro de Atacama - Half Day Moon and Death Valley Excursion**

#### *Breakfast*

The Moon Valley is well known for its amazing geological stone formations of extraordinary beauty. Located in the Cordillera de la Sal, it represents an extraordinary attraction because of its resemblance to the moon's surface and its enormous natural coliseum. We will depart from your hotel in San Pedro and head to the Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountain Range), very rich in minerals. First stop will be at Valle de la Muerte (Death Valley), a mountainous and sandy site with a particular geographical beauty. Its salt formations look like sculptures and works of art.



*Death Valley (Flickr, Dimitry B)*

Continue on to Valle de la Luna (Moon Valley), a small depression of saline ground, containing a number of small, sharp-crested hills where once there used to be a lake. This unique place is famous for its natural mineral sculptures, one being Las Tres Marías formed by wind erosion and resembling a lunar setting. There are also caves and mineral deposits of a stone very similar to quartz. End the tour by admiring the sunset from La Gran Duna (The Great Dune) with its majestic display of colours. Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama.

### **Day 6: San Pedro de Atacama**

#### *Breakfast*

Day at leisure to explore further on your own.

Overnight in San Pedro de Atacama.

## **Day 7: Atacama – Puerto Montt – Puerto Varas**

### *Breakfast*

At the relevant time you will be transferred from the hotel to the airport.

**Flight to Puerto Montt airport. (Not included)**

On arrival, you will be met by one of our representatives, who will take you to your hotel in Puerto Varas and assist you with check-in procedures.

Overnight in Puerto Varas.

## **Day 8: Puerto Varas - Half Day El Frutillar Excursion**

### *Breakfast*

We start our trip today with a visit to the city of Llanquihue, famous for its traditional and tasty sausages. This area, part of the ancient Route of the Settlers, is the place where the Maullin River has its source. During the tour around the city we will visit the German Colonists Memorial and then head towards Frutillar, a beautiful village recalling the old Bavaria, from where the first colonizers arrived. In 1856 Frutillar was just a boarding pier, but soon tanneries, mills and breweries appeared, bringing the region to life. We will walk around the beautiful old German style houses, admiring the gardens and the incomparable views of the Osorno and Puntiagudo volcanoes framing the city.

Optional visit to the German Colonial Museum which portrays the life of the settlers (tickets not included). If you are traveling at the end of January, (27 Jan – 05 Feb in 2020) you can go to the Teatro del Lago (Lake Theatre) on the lake to watch the annual Frutillar Musical Week, a Summer Festival of classic music from Chile and abroad. (tickets not included).

Overnight in Puerto Varas.



*Frutillar (Flickr, Juan Manuel Fluxá)*

## **Day 9: Puerto Varas**

### *Breakfast*

Day at leisure for further exploration on your own.

Overnight in Puerto Varas.

## **Day 10: Puerto Varas - Torres del Paine**

### *Breakfast*

At the relevant time you will be transferred from the hotel to the Puerto Montt airport.

**Flight to Punta Arenas airport. (Not included)**

Assistance on arrival and transfer to your hotel in Torres del Paine.

Immerse yourself in this vast national park; a backpack and comfortable shoes are all you require for a trekking adventure, the best possible way to explore this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.



Take full advantage of the 17 hours of daylight in summer and don't miss out on sunrise, when the horns of the Torres del Paine massif glow purple and red. Sail on Lake Grey to admire Grey Glacier or paddle a kayak through its colossal blue and white icebergs. You will enjoy terrific wildlife-watching in Torres del Paine. See majestic condors wheeling in the pristine skies overhead. Look out for foxes, huemul or Andean deer and guanacos along the way, and if you lie in wait patiently, you might be lucky enough to spot the reclusive puma.

Overnight in Torres del Paine.



*Grey Glacier (Flickr, Chad Rosenthal)*

#### **Day 11: Torres del Paine**

*Breakfast*

Enjoy the excursions offered by the hotel and included in the rate.

Overnight in Torres del Paine.

#### **Day 12: Torres del Paine**

*Breakfast*

Another day of excursions offered by the hotel.

Overnight in Torres del Paine.

#### **Day 13: T. del Paine / P. Arenas**

*Breakfast*

At the relevant time you will be transferred to the Punta Arenas airport for onward flights.



*Torres del Paine (Flickr, Andrea Schaffer)*